

STUDIES IN THE HELIANTHEAE (ASTERACEAE). X.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF CALEA SKUTCHII.

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Calea skutchii was described by S.F.Blake in 1934 with reference to the Viguiera-like pappus. The species was treated as a member of the subgenus Tetrachyron of the genus Calea. Blake had only immature achenes on which to base his conclusions.

Attempts to determine recent collections by R.M. King from Guatemala have shown that the achenes of C. skutchii are compressed and other features indicate the species is a member of the subtribe Verbesininae. The combination of tree-like habit, mostly opposite leaves, strongly decurrent leaf blade with prominent trinervation, densely puberulous rather than scabrous leaf surfaces, broadly corymbose inflorescences, radiate heads with fertile rays, short disk corolla lobes with papillae on the inner surface, compressed achenes with a slender base, and pappus with two larger squamae and a few smaller lateral squamellae matches that of the genus Podachaenium. The previously monotypic genus Podachaenium ranges from Mexico to Costa Rica. The second species occurs only in Guatemala and adjacent Chiapas. The following new combination is necessary.

Podachaenium skutchii (Blake) H.Robinson, comb. nov.
Calea skutchii Blake, Jour. Washington Acad. Sci.
24: 438. 1934.

Some distinctions of the two species are very obvious but they seem to be worthy, at most, of subgeneric rank. In P. skutchii the leaf blades are not lobed, the leaf tips are sharply acute to acuminate, the rays are yellow rather than white, the disk corollas have papillae inside on most of the throat, the style branches lack glands on the abaxial surface, the tubes of the disk corollas are nearly glabrous, and the outer surfaces of the pappus squamae are papillose. Both species are well illustrated in the Flora of Guatemala (Nash & Williams, 1976), P. eminens in Fig. 90 and P. skutchii in Fig. 56. The achene has a

narrower base in both species than is shown in the illustrations.

Literature Cited

- Blake, S. F. 1934. New Asteraceae from Guatemala collected by A. F. Skutch. Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci. 24: 432-443.
- Nash, Dorothy L. & L. O. Williams 1976. Flora of Guatemala. Fieldiana: Botany 24 (12): 1-x, 1-603.